

A Mobile Communication Base Station Apparatus and a 5 Baseband Processing Section

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a mobile communication base station apparatus, in particular to a scalable W-CDMA NODE-B System, and a
10 baseband processing section.

The present invention is based on a priority application, EP 03290364.3, which is hereby incorporated by reference.

Background of the Invention

15 A mobile communication base station with a radio channel setting control is e.g. known from US Patent Application No. 5,889,769. The establishment of virtual connections passing through a multi-stage switching system is known from the US Patent Application No. 4,907,220.

20 The invention is based on a mobile communication base station apparatus comprising a plurality of radio transmission and/or reception sections and a plurality of baseband processing sections comprising a user data stream interface, where each radio transmission and/or reception section is
25 connected to at least one baseband processing section, known from the US Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0141512 A1. The Patent Application discloses a process for baseband processing in baseband

board units of a base station, where baseband processing is assigned to a processing element of a baseband board unit according to the utilization of the processing element. The UK Patent Application GB 2 315 622 A discloses a transmission device for use in a base station compensating a

5 failure of an amplifier in a transmitter by increasing the baseband signal.

Universal Mobile Telecommunication system (UMTS) addresses the growing demand of mobile and Internet applications for new capacity in the overcrowded mobile communications sky. The new network increases

10 transmission speed to 2 Mbps per mobile user and establishes a global roaming standard.

The main characteristics of 3G systems are: Used worldwide, Used for all mobile applications, support both packet-switched (PS) and circuit-switched

15 (CS) data transmission, and offer high data rates up to 2 Mbps (depending on mobility/velocity) and a high spectrum efficiency.

One of the most significant changes is the new UMTS terrestrial radio access (UTRA), a wide-band code division multiple access (W-CDMA) radio

20 interface for land-based communications. UTRA supports time division duplex (TDD) and frequency division duplex (FDD).

In UMTS release 1, a new radio access network UMTS terrestrial radio access network (UTRAN) is introduced, shown in figure 1. UTRAN, the

25 UMTS radio access network (RAN), is connected via the Iu to the Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) Phase 2+ core network (CN). The 'Iu' is the UTRAN interface between the radio network controller (RNC) and CN.

Two network elements are introduced in UTRAN, RNC, and node B. UTRAN is subdivided into individual radio network systems (RNSs), where each RNS is controlled by an RNC. The RNC is connected to a set of node B elements, each of which can serve one or several cells. Node B is the physical unit for

- 5 radio transmission/reception with cells. Depending on sectoring, one or more cells may be served by a node B. Node B collects with the UE via the W-CDMA Uu radio interface and with the RNC via the Iub asynchronous transfer mode (ATM)-based interface. Node B is the ATM termination point.
- 10 The main task of node B is the conversion of data to and from the Uu radio interface, including forward error correction (FEC), rate adaptation, W-CDMA spreading/de-spreading, and quadrature phase shift keying (QPSK) modulation on the air interface.
- 15 W-CDMA can support mobile/portable voice, images, data, and video communications at up to 2 Mbps (local area access) or 384 Kbps (wide area access). The input signals are digitized and transmitted in coded, spread-spectrum mode over a broad range of frequencies. A 5 MHz-wide carrier is used, compared with 200 kHz-wide carrier for narrow-band
- 20 CDMA.

CDMA uses unique spreading codes to spread the baseband data, i.e., the original band of frequencies, before transmission. The signal is transmitted in a channel, which is below noise level. The receiver then uses a correlator

- 25 to de-spread the wanted signal, which is passed through a narrow band-pass filter. Unwanted signals will not be de-spread and will not pass through the filter. Codes take the form of a carefully designed one/zero sequence produced at a much higher rate than that of the baseband data. The rate of a spreading code is referred to as chip rate rather than bit rate.

W-CDMA uses Direct Sequence spreading, where spreading process is done by directly combining the baseband information to high chip rate binary code. The Spreading Factor is the ratio of the chips (UMTS = 5 3.84Mchips/s) to baseband information rate. Spreading factors vary from 4 to 512 in FDD UMTS.

As illustrated above through multiple UMTS requirements the major challenge is the tight adaptation of the radio transmitter on the data streams to be transmitted. The encoding and decoding according to W-CDMA requires a tight connection between radio transmitters and data stream construction and reconstruction, performed by baseband processor sections.

10 15 To cope with UMTS requirements as well as scalability and robustness of e.g. a node B, an efficient architectural design is necessary in order to implement compliant and performant node B, i.e., to define functional entities and their interaction.

20 Summary of the Invention
This invention has the underlying problem of designing a scalable and robust base station, especially a W-CDMA node B system, with non-critical components, avoiding e.g. critical line length matching.

25 The problem is solved by a mobile communication base station apparatus comprising a plurality of radio transmission and/or reception sections and a plurality of baseband processing sections, such that the plurality of baseband processing sections are divided into stages, arranged in at least two consecutive stages, where each stage each comprising multiple

baseband processing sections, the radio transmission and/or reception sections are connected to a first stage of the baseband processing sections connected to a radio transmission and/or reception section and other stages of the baseband processing sections are multistage-connected to the

5 first stage of the baseband processing sections so that the baseband processing sections form a stage configuration of consecutive interconnected stages of baseband processing sections, where each baseband processing section comprises adding means, dropping means, and routing means for extraction and injection of data streams and routing

10 the data streams through the stages. The mobile communication base station apparatus might be a W-CDMA NODE-B System and the adding and dropping means controlling the spreading and de-spreading according to code division multiple access. The transmission and/or reception sections might be decomposed into receiver modules and transmitter modules. And

15 the baseband processing sections within one stage might be interconnected. The stage configuration is preferably a matrix configuration and the number of baseband processing sections in the stages of the baseband processing sections is constant. Said routing means might support load balancing on said interfaces by using corresponding interface connections.

20 The mobile communication base station apparatus might comprising detection means for detecting defect baseband processing sections and said routing means might support fault tolerance by using routing paths avoiding said defect baseband processing sections.

25 The problem is further solved by a baseband processing section for use in a mobile communication base station apparatus, comprising a baseband-processing-section-to-baseband processing section interface for data streams transmitted and/or received between the baseband processing section and another baseband processing section, adding means for

injecting additional data streams to received data stream, dropping means for extracting data streams from received data streams, and routing means for passing resulting data streams over said interface. The baseband processing section might comprising adding and dropping means

- 5 controlling the spreading and de-spreading according to code division multiple access. And the baseband processing section might comprising baseband-processing-section-to-transmission-and/or-reception-sections-interface for data streams transmitted and/or received between the baseband processing section and transmission and/or reception sections.

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In other words, as mentioned above the main functionality of a node B is to perform the air interface processing, i.e. channel coding and interleaving, rate adaptation, spreading, etc. Major components are radio transmitter sections responsible for receiving and transmitting the radio signal, i.e.

- 15 generating (power amplifier) and receiving (receiver) by modulating (filter) and demodulating (filter) carriers. A second functional component are baseband processors, encoding and decoding, multiplexing and de-multiplexing W-CDMA signals.

20 Full interface matrix configuration, shown in figure 5, is generally used, allowing multiple baseband processors to connect to one radio transmitter. However its implementation is of higher cost and complicated, e.g. with

respect to critical line length matching. Huge, non-standard size back-planes, e.g. one backplane for two sub-racks, with critical line length

- 25 matching are required. In addition both receiver and sender functions are split and realized by two separate sections, like a power amplifier and up-converter for a sender unit.

A scalable stage matrix interface configuration is proposed, using a comparable small backplane and cables to connect the sender and receiver sections with the baseband processors sections. By this it becomes possible to realize up-converter and power amplifier as one module and also to

5 combine diplexer filter and down-converter in one module, as well as avoiding the critical line length matching interface between baseband processors and radio transmitter.

Several baseband processors modules are grouped into stages. The

10 baseband processors aggregating board data and stage-to-stage data streams, allowing a smooth adding and dropping of data streams and a balanced routing through the proposed stage connection network.

The first stage serves the radio transmitters and radio receivers. This system

15 decomposition avoid critical line length matching and could be realized using passive components and standard back-plane with non critical line length matching, and Cat-5 cable, i.e. 100 ohm unshielded twisted pair UTP cables characterized to 100 MHz, supporting applications up to 100 Mbps.

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The stage interface could for instance consist of stages holding 3 baseband modules. The first stage is interfacing to the radio transmitter. Each stage is interconnected to the next stage by a complete mesh. Preferably, in addition to these interfaces, the baseband processing sections in the first stage are

25 interconnected via inter-stage interface. Baseband processors in the following stages have stage-to-stage interfaces to the preceding stage and to the succeeding stage. A radio transmitter might select among three inter-connections to connect the first stage. Hence, instead full-matrix interface configuration between radio transmitter and baseband processors, the

functionality is distributed over the multistage-connected baseband processing sections.

Accordingly, it is an object and advantage of the present invention to

5 provide an scalable base station apparatus, in particular to a scalable W-CDMA NODE-B System, with baseband modules interfacing to radio-transmitter modules avoiding wiring concentration and critical line length matching. This yields e.g. to simplification of mother boards and small equipment size, and enables a compact and clear design, e.g. one section

10 for each radio transceiver and radio transmitter functionality and a reduction back-plane board complexity.

Another advantage of the present invention is that the invention provides an base station apparatus with non-critical interfaces between baseband processors and radio unit which is flexible scalable.

15 A further advantage of the present invention is that the base station cold be implemented using low cost standard components.

20 Yet another advantage of the present invention is the enhanced flexibility, scalability, and robustness of a base station apparatus due to robust and mature standard components. The design allows redundancy mechanisms increasing the maturity and robustness.

25 Brief Description of the Drawings

These and many other objects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art from a consideration of the drawings and ensuing description.

Figure 1 is a schematic drawing of a part of a prior art UMTS terrestrial radio access network.

5 Figure 2 is a schematic drawing of components of a mobile communication base station apparatus according to the invention.

Figure 3 is a schematic drawing of the physical implementation of the baseband processing section radio transmitter interface of a mobile communication base station apparatus according to the invention.

10 Figure 4 is a schematic drawing of a preferred baseband processing section radio transmitter interface matrix configuration in a mobile communication base station apparatus according to the invention.

15 Figure 5 is a schematic drawing of conventional example baseband processing section radio transmitter interface of a mobile communication base station according to prior art.

20 Figure 6 is a schematic drawing of baseband processing section according to the invention.

Figure 7 to Figure 12 are schematic drawings of variants of baseband processing section radio transmitter interface configurations of a mobile communication base station according to the invention.

25 Detailed Description of the Drawings
Figure 1 shows a part of a prior art UMTS terrestrial radio access network 10, comprising node Bs 1,2,3, and RNCs 4,5. The node Bs are have associated antennas, forming one end of the user equipment air interface

Uu 6. Node Bs 1, 2, 3 are interconnected with RNCs 4, 5 via the IuB interface 7, and the RNCs 4, 5 are interconnected via the Iur interface 8. The RNCs 4, 5 interfacing the core network via the Iu interface 9. The figure illustrates as decribed in the introductory part the role of a node B as

5 mediating element between air interface Uu 6 and the RNC interface Iub 7.

Figure 2 illustrates components of a mobile communication base station, comprising interfaces 12, 13 between (internal) components 14, as well as external interfaces 11. The shown node B comprises the following

10 components 14: a connection area BTS CA / XIOB, a station unit module universal SUMU, baseband boards BB, a transition adapter board TRAB, an antenna receiver unit ANRU, and transmitter equipment for UMTS TEU. The external interfaces 11 comprising, e.g. a BTS man machine interface BTS_MMIEth, and BTS_MMIV24, as well as XIO, XBXB XCLK XGPS, XRT,

15 IUB, and XPS, etc.

A back plane interface 12 comprises a base station control bus BCB, a physical internal addressing bus ADR, a base station internal interface BBII, an internal data clock CLKI, and baseband board to baseband board

20 interfaces BBI.

A second Interface 13 between baseband boards BB and antenna receiver unit ANRU, as well as transmitter equipment for UMTS TEU, via the transition adapter board TRAB, comprising a radio synchronization interface RSI, a baseband transmitter interface BTI, and a baseband receiver interface BRI.

The digital internal interfaces of this NodeB are based on e.g. synchronous serial buses. The clocks and frame signals are distributed as buses to the

baseband boards BB and as point-to-point connections to antenna receiver unit ANRU, as well as transmitter equipment for UMTS TEU . This essential component interface is realized according to the invention.

5 Figure 3 illustrates the physical realization of the baseband processing section to transmission and reception section. The figure shows baseband boards BBs, transceiver boards TRs (an abstraction from the antenna receiver unit ANRU, as well as transmitter equipment for UMTS TEU in the figure 2.), the transition adapter board TRAB, and a backplane board PLA
10 realizing the backplane interface(s) 12.

The baseband boards BB are interconnected and are connected with the transition adapter board TRAB via a back plane board PLA. The transition adapter board TRAB is wired by cables CABs with the transceiver boards TRs, realizing the second interface(s) 13.

15 The figure illustrates by showing the connection components, namely cables CABs and a backplane board PLA the de-coupling of the radio part and the baseband processing part in this node B construction.

20 Figure 4 shows the preferred realization of the baseband processing section and transmission and reception section configuration. There are transmission and/or reception sections 20 and baseband processing sections 21. The transmission and/or reception sections are grouped into a
25 transceiver stage 18 of three sections. The baseband processing sections are grouped into a first stage 16 and into further stages 17, each comprising three baseband processing sections 21, except the last one. The consecutive first and the further stages 16, 17 are meshed, preferably by a complete mesh. The baseband processing sections in the first stage 16 are

interconnected, too. And the first stage 16 is meshed with the transceiver stage 18.

Figure 5 shows a conventional prior art example of a mobile communication base station apparatus. A plurality 23 of baseband boards (BBX) 25 which perform signal processing for respective user terminals in the mobile communication base station are connected to a further plurality 22 of complex radio transmission and reception sections (TRX) 22, so as to form complete bipartite graph of $N \times M$ connections 24. Though the configuration allows signal relief under simple control at a board failure time, it is necessary to set a wiring density between TRX 26 and BPX 25 to be high and preliminarily prepare adders or the like so as to correspond to the number of BPs to be added on. When the number of BPs is limited, efficiency is reduced. Hence, a configuration with lower wiring density between TRs and BPs provides a better scalability and extensibility.

Comparing the design shown in figure 4 with the prior art shown in figure 5, baseband processing sections are configured in a matrix of m (columns; stage) $\times n$ (rows) in connection between transmitter and receiver sections 20 and baseband processing sections 21. In order to allow such a stage configuration, a routing and addition processing function is provided in the baseband processing sections 21.

An extension of baseband processing sections 21 is performed by additional rows. In this case, in order to achieve sector-free and carrier-free configuration, connection between transmitter and receiver sections and the first stage 16 of baseband processing sections 21 may be a complete mesh connection or inter-connection may be made between the baseband processing sections in the first stage 16. Further, for decentralizing an

amount of signal transmission between baseband processing sections, a full mesh connection 19 can be made between first and further stages 16, 17. Furthermore, for reducing the number of signals between transmitter and receiver sections 20 and the baseband processing sections 21 in the first

5 stage 16, the transmitter and receiver sections 20 may be configured in a matrix, too. Further, at a time of baseband processing section failure or at a time of maintenance, the sections may have a rerouting capabilities for relieving a route for the failed section.

10 Accordingly wiring concentration can be avoided, and since the number of input ports of transmitter and receiver sections is fixed, extensibility is improved.

15 Figure 6 shows a single baseband processing section 38, the m-th baseband processing section 38 in the n-th stage with an user data stream interface 39. The baseband processing section 38 comprises two routing and add/drop units 31, 32, several baseband processing units 33 and input and output interfaces 34, ..., 37.

20 The upper input interface 35 together with the upper output interface 34 and the upper routing and add/drop unit 31 support a data stream form left to right, i.e. coming from the n-1 th baseband processor section stage or from the transition and receiving section, to the n+1 baseband processor section stage. Correspondingly the lower input interface 37

25 together with the lower output interface 36 and the lower routing and add/drop unit 32 support a data stream from right to left , i.e. coming from the n+1 th baseband processor section stage to the n-1 baseband processor section stage or to the transition and receiving section. Inter-stage connections might be supported analogously.

The routing and add/drop units 31, 32 are capable of injecting baseband data resulting from baseband processing units 33. Correspondingly, the routing and add/drop units 31, 32 are capable of extracting data streams

5 for the baseband processing units 33. Further the routing and add/drop units 31, 32 are passing the resulting data streams.

The routing might be controlled for invalidating a signal processing performed by a failure or fault baseband processing section 35 or

10 baseband processing unit 33 or even a transmitter and/or receiving section or a baseband processing section 38 to be subjected to maintenance (at a failure or fault time, or reconfiguration). The control might even support a reallocation of associated users for fault tolerance reasons.

15 Further the routing is controlled in order to balance load or to cope with additional constraints, e.g. timing and synchronization.

Figure 7 shows when the number of transmitter and receiver sections 20 is three. Nine baseband processing sections 21 are stage-wise configured,

20 three in one stage 17, i.e., $[3] \times [3,3,3]$. Adding further stages 17 of additional baseband processing sections 21 does not influence the number of connections between baseband processing sections 21 and transmitter and receiver sections 20, since the additional sections are connected in a multistage manner, as shown with a dotted lines. As illustrated, by

25 handling baseband processing sections 21 as a stage of a vertical line, connection between transmitter and receiver sections 20 and baseband processing sections 21 can be achieved by only connection 19 to the first stage 16. Further, by multistage-connecting stages in a horizontal line, extension is made possible.

Figure 8 shows another interface configuration, [6]x[3,3,3]. Though the number of transmitter and receiver sections 20 in the transceiver stage 18 5 might be greater than the number of interfacing baseband processing sections 21 in the first stage 16, e.g. for safety reasons.

Figure 9 shows a further interface configuration. In order to allow transmission/reception sector-free or carrier-free base station 10 configurations, the signals between all baseband processing sections 21 and all transmitter and receiver sections 20, the baseband processing sections 21 in the first stage 16 are inter-connected. Hence there are paths between every baseband processing section 21 and every transmitter and receiver section 20.

15 Figure 10 shows an alternative interface configuration to the interface configuration shown in figure 9. Connection between transmitter and receiver sections 20 and baseband processing sections 21 in the first stage 16 of is implemented by a complete mesh 19. Hence there are also paths 20 between every baseband processing section 21 and every transmitter and receiver section 20.

Figure 11 shows an interface configuration with complete mesh connections 25 between baseband processing section 21 in successive stage is performed for a similar purpose. In this case, though an amount of signal transmission between baseband processing section 21 in the first stage 16 increases, baseband processing section to baseband processing section connection can be made in each stage sequent to stage in order to avoid

concentration. The connections 19 further support additional redundancy for re-routing over alternative paths.

The complete mesh between stages of baseband processing sections allows

- 5 to decentralize or distribute the amount of signal transmission. Furthermore additional interfacing sections for the transmitter and receiver sections are added.

Figure 12 shows a more complex configuration, namely [2,3]x[3,4,2,1],

- 10 comprising of a first transmitter stage 18b, and a second and last transceiver stage 18a, as well as a first baseband processing section stage 16a, a second one stage 17a, a third stage 17b, and a fourth stage 17c forming. Although not necessary, the connections 19 are complete meshes.

- 15 The configuration comprises multi-staged transmitter and receiver sections 20, transmitter and receiver sections side employs a complex configuration, too, in order to avoid that the number of the matrix connections between transmitter and receiver sections 20 and the first stage 16a of baseband processing section 21 becomes vast. Thereby, it becomes possible to
- 20 reduce the number connections and a load balancing between transmitter and receiver sections 20 and baseband processing section 21 as well as a load balancing for both sides.